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Curios and Relics

Furniture

Desk

White House

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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Springfield,Star
Springfield, Illinois
June 4, 1964

White House Seeks Recovery Of Heirloom

By DOROTHY McCARDLE

WASHINGTON—There is a small tug of war underway here over a priceless heirloom desk which was used at the White House by Abraham Lincoln.

The White House wants it back.

It now is housed in the former home of President Rutherford B. Hayes, Spiegel Grove, in Fremont, Ohio.

There has been considerable correspondence about this between the White House and the Ohio Historical Society which administers the Hayes Memorial Library and the estate of Spiegel Grove where the library houses so many historic treasures.

To date, the White House is the loser.

But it is felt by many here that the Lincoln desk, with its swivel chair, would be most appropriate right back at the White House where Lincoln used it for so much of his correspondence.

The return of the desk is in keeping with the efforts of the White House Fine Arts Committee to get back all items with which America's presidents were closely associated during their residence there.

The Hayes collection of Lincolniana also includes a pair of Lincoln's gloves, a pair of his slippers, and an original hand bill of Ford's Theatre, here in Washington, for the performance on the night that Lincoln was assassinated.

It used to be the custom when a president moved out of the White House, he took home everything that took his fancy and that wasn't nailed down.

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